



Political Economy and International Security Speaker
Series

Charles Doran

Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies
Johns Hopkins University

**"POWER CYCLE THEORY IN INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS, MANAGEMENT, AND FINANCE:
ABSOLUTE CHANGE AND THE NON-LINEARITIES OF
COMPETITION"**

November 7, 2003

12:00 p.m. *

*Mershon Center
Room 120*

What matters in the structural dynamics of any political or economic system is the contradiction between absolute and relative trends. The "single dynamic" of power and role, of state and system (or firm and industry), encodes the "perspective of statecraft" (of strategic planning and implementation) in the trends and shifting trends of relative share. These "tides of history" shift counter-intuitively, creating enormous uncertainty, inverting future expectations about role and security (the trend of future profits), disrupting the normal stability of statecraft. These critical points (structural shifts) on the power cycle are causally related to alliance behavior and to the most massive wars in history. Complementarity and competitiveness lead to productive interaction and to the evolution of industry or international system.



Charles F. Doran is the Andrew W. Mellon Professor of International Relations, Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Washington, DC, directing both the International Relations Program (Global Theory and History sub-field) and the Center of Canadian Studies. A Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), he is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the North American Committee.

*R.S.V.P. to [Ann Powers](#) if you plan to attend this event.